



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

QUEENSTOWN, IRELAND, *April 28, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith weekly abstract of bills of health, and sanitary report; and to report on the transactions at this port for the week ended to-day as follows: April 22, Cunard steamship *Lucania*, for New York, 5 saloon, 49 second-cabin, and 411 steerage passengers, with 784 pieces of baggage. April 26, American Line steamship *Penland*, for Philadelphia, 17 second-cabin and 237 steerage passengers, with 346 pieces of baggage.

Respectfully,

J. H. OAKLEY,

*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

ITALY.

*Smallpox on the steamship New England.*

ROME, *March 31, 1900.*

SIR: I think it my duty to report to you the following: On February 1 last a manager of traveling tours, a certain Frank C. Clark, of New York, took in the United States some 500 tourists for a cruise to the Mediterranean and the Orient. They embarked at Boston on the Dominion Line steamship *New England*. Commander James McAuley.

On March 19, on the return trip, they arrived at Naples. The passengers got off there and proceeded the next day to Rome. No sooner had they landed here than 2 of their passengers were taken down with smallpox. They were a Miss Scouten, of Sparta, Wis., who died from the disease within four days, and a Mrs. I. G. Vaughan, of Dayton, Ohio, who is now recovering. These 2 cases were followed, to my knowledge, by 6 additional ones. Of these, all but 2, who are still in danger, are doing well.

The Italian authorities had the cases immediately isolated and carried to the hospital for contagious diseases, where the invalids are under the best possible care.

I was assured, and everything points to the conclusion, that the disease had broken out on board the ship before her arrival at Naples, but that the fact was concealed from the authorities and from the passengers in order to escape quarantine. Miss Scouten made an antemortem declaration to Dr. W. W. Baldwin, an American citizen residing and practicing in Rome, to the effect that she had noticed a suspicious case of disease similar, she said, to her own, isolated and quarantined at one end of the ship, the sick person being a Mrs. Thompson, wife of Captain Thompson, of Friendship, Me. Miss Scouten was emphatic in her assertion that she had noticed the lady's face covered with blotches, that she had spoken of it to Mr. F. C. Clark, the manager of the touring party, who had denied the fact and requested her not to speak of such things, for the ship might be quarantined. Mr. Vaughan is equally positive in his statements as to the existence of smallpox on board of the ship, and the subsequent events do, unfortunately, fully corroborate these declarations.

It is asserted that a Mr. N. H. Becker, of Seneca Falls, N. Y., died of the disease, and that he was buried at sea; the cause of his death being given as acute jaundice. It is also said that Mrs. Thompson died on board, but this I could not verify; at all events she was not among the party at Rome.

So soon as I heard of the charges brought against the steamship offi-

cials, I questioned Mr. F. C. Clark, when he called upon me at this office, but he strongly denied them. Notwithstanding I immediately sent the following telegram to the United States consul at Naples:

Request port authorities ascertain if steamer *New England* had any smallpox cases on board before reaching Naples. Some cases broke out here among Americans of ship's party. They claim sickness was on board, but concealed. Inquest necessary to establish truth and fix responsibility.

DE CASTRO,  
Consul-General.

To which I received the following reply: "*New England* not visited by local authorities. Out of our jurisdiction. Sailed Liverpool."

The sudden sailing of the ship and her unloading the baggage of the passengers which had been left on board, and the passengers themselves not being allowed to proceed on the steamer to Villefranche and Liverpool, as previously intended, strongly sustain the charges brought against the officers of the *New England*. Moreover Mr. Clark admitted to me, that after the passengers had left the ship at Naples, 3 members of the crew had shown the symptoms of smallpox; this would go to prove also that the steamer was infected.

Having ascertained that the *New England* was on her way to Liverpool, I at once telegraphed to the surgeon of the United States Marine-Hospital Service at this port: "Strongly suspect steamer *New England* of Dominion Line returning from eastern cruise with 500 American tourists had smallpox case on board before reaching Naples. A number of cases broke out in Rome among passengers from the ship. They claim that the sickness on board was concealed from authorities. Ship reported all right on board. Was not visited at Naples. Sailed suddenly for Liverpool, whence she is booked for New York with some of the passengers. I suggest that inquest be made, if possible, on arrival of ship to ascertain the truth and to fix the responsibility. One of the patients has since died from the disease..

"DE CASTRO,  
United States Consul."

I confirmed this telegram by letter.

I am hopeful that some action might be taken to thoroughly investigate this matter, and if possible to bring to justice the people guilty of the perpetration of the criminal action of concealing the existence of the infectious disease on board. They have brought sorrow and desolation to a number of families and endangered the health and life of whole communities. Had the officers of the *New England*, upon their arrival at Naples, made the proper sanitary declaration, the passengers would have been vaccinated and otherwise treated, and the evil would have been checked.

The conduct of the officers of the ship and of the manager of the touring party was no doubt dictated by greed and to attain their aim; they have committed a dastardly offense against the law of nations and against mankind. I sincerely trust that they will be made to suffer for it.

Since writing the above there has been another victim of the disease, a Mr. Emory Ford, of the same touring party, who died yesterday at Genoa, where he had proceeded directly from Rome upon his arrival from Naples. Mr. Ford came from Allegheny, Pa.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

HECTOR DE CASTRO, Consul-General.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

Here is a list of the victims of the disease in Rome :

Recovering.—Rev. F. P. Archer, of Morris, Minn.; Miss Azelia Wells, of Herman, Minn.; Rev. G. F. Love, Jr., of Oswego, N. Y.; Mrs. E. M. Gordon, of Pittsburg, Pa.; Mrs. J. G. Vaughan, of Dayton, Ohio.

Dead.—Miss Anna Scouten, of Sparta, Wis.; Mr. Emory L. Ford, Alleghany, Pa.

ROME, *April 6, 1900.*

SIR: Supplementing my report of March 31 last, No. 81, referring to various smallpox cases which had broken out among the American tourists of the British Dominion Line steamer *New England*, I beg leave to inclose a copy of the letter received by me from Assistant Surgeon Mathewson of the United States Marine-Hospital Service, at Liverpool, which speaks for itself.

In addition to the cases of smallpox mentioned in my last communication upon the subject there is another case to register, that of Mrs. Emily P. Yoe, of Richmond, Ind., whose condition I am happy to say is satisfactory. I must, however, report with great regret, the death of the Rev. Geo. F. Love, jr., who was taken ill with the disease three days after his arrival in Rome.

From all the information I have been able to gather I am convinced once more that the *New England* was badly infected prior to her arrival at Naples, all the circumstances pointing to the fact that the disease was brought on board at Alexandria, Egypt.

The Italian authorities are thoroughly investigating the matter and will no doubt in time communicate the results of their investigation to the United States Government.

I deem it my duty to express the highest praise and appreciation for the manner in which the health authorities in Rome have acted in these trying circumstances. By the prompt and energetic measures taken by them, they prevented the spread of the disease in the city, and I am happy to say that no other case of the dreaded disease has broken out either among the population or among the remaining passengers of the *New England*.

Our sick at the hospital for contagious diseases were and are treated in the most kind manner and receive all the attention that the best skill can procure. Special English-speaking nurses have been engaged and every measure is taken for the comfort of the invalids.

I myself call every day at the hospital to look after the welfare of the patients.

If I may be allowed to close this report with a suggestion, in order to avoid the repetition of such criminal occurrences, foreign ships carrying large numbers of American tourists to Eastern cruises, be compelled to have on board in addition to the regular ship's physician an American doctor.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

HECTOR DE CASTRO,  
*Consul-General.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure.]

LIVERPOOL, *April 12, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 28th ultimo and to thank you for the information therein contained. The British port sanitary authorities were notified, and the *New England* was quarantined upon her arrival here March 28. Nineteen cases of smallpox were found aboard. The vessel complied upon

her arrival with all the requirements of British law, and, of course, can not be brought to account for deceptions practiced in Italian ports.

From information gathered here, there is morally no doubt that the vessel was infected upon her arrival at Naples, and some sharp practices must have been indulged in to escape quarantine at that port.

Respectfully,

H. S. MATHEWSON,  
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

Hon. HECTOR DE CASTRO, *Consul-General.*

GENOA, ITALY, *April 5, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report more in detail the circumstances attending the death of Mr. Emory Low Ford, an American citizen from Pittsburg, who died here of smallpox on March 29, mention of which was made in my report of last week. Mr. Ford accompanied a party of tourists on the steamship *New England* to Egypt, and while on one of the Nile steamers was exposed to the contagion of variola. The *New England* arrived at Naples about sixteen days ago and many of the passengers visited the places of interest in Italy, including Rome, Genoa, and Venice. Smallpox made its appearance on board the steamer at Naples. I was informed by one of the passengers that notices were posted in the hotels of Rome advising all concerned not to return to the steamer on account of this disease.

Mr. Ford and a friend, Mr. Price, arrived in Genoa on March 24 or March 25. This friend states that the deceased had a chill while on the cars several hours before reaching Genoa, and that he was a very sick man, being confined to his bed at the Hotel de Gene up to the time of his death. Mr. Price applied at the consulate for instructions relative to the shipment of the remains by one of the Lloyd steamers to New York, and stated that the cause of death was heart disease. I was requested by the consul, Mr. Fletcher, to examine the body for the purpose of satisfying ourselves as to the cause of death, as the circumstances seemed fully to warrant the precaution. An examination, made in the absence of the medical attendant, revealed an eruption confined mainly to the lower trunk, groins, and thighs, though there were a few papula, perhaps two days old, on the face (brow), feet, and legs. The medical attendant held to his original diagnosis of heart disease, though admitting that he had not examined his patient's body or lower extremities. Smallpox, in his opinion, was remote, since the temperature of the patient for the last thirty-six hours of life was so nearly normal.

When reminded that a subsidence of temperature in smallpox cases was usual after the appearance of the eruption, he replied that there was no eruption, but that he had noticed "some petechiæ on the chest which was to be expected after death from heart disease." It should be stated that the doctor and the friend of the deceased requested that no further examinations be made and that the health authorities should not be notified. The advice to cremate was objected to by relatives in America. The remains were given a temporary resting place in the Protestant cemetery pending removal to the United States. It seemed proper to inform the Bureau fully of this sad occurrence since a request may be made at any time for authority to remove the body to the United States.

Respectfully,

RUPERT BLUE,  
*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*